

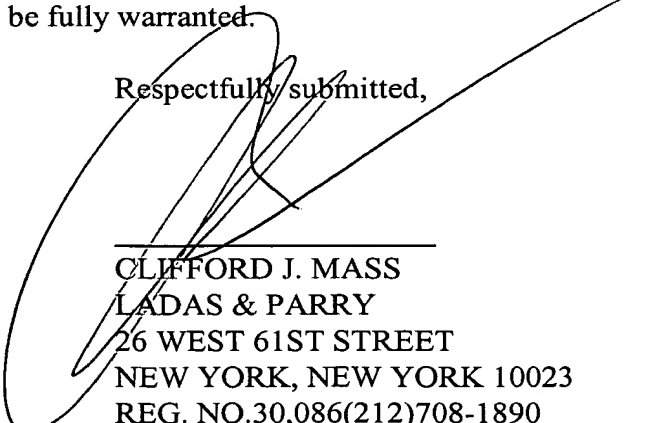
REMARKS

The Official Action of April 6, 2004 has been carefully considered and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The indicated allowability of claims 1-5, 7-13 and 23-25 has been noted with appreciation. The indication that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, has also been noted with appreciation. The recitations of claim 18 have now been incorporated into claim 14, and claim 18 has been canceled. Since claim 14 now includes all of the limitations formerly in claim 18 and its base claim, it is respectfully submitted that it is now in condition for allowance in line with the Examiner's remarks.

The prior art rejections at paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of the Official Action have not been applied against the subject matter of the claims as amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all rejections and objections of record have been overcome and that the application is now in allowable form. An early notice of allowance is earnestly solicited and is believed to be fully warranted.

Respectfully submitted,



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